

Intervention on Agenda Item 2.

Progress on ESD in the Netherlands.

In 2014 and 2015 considerable progress is made in the Netherlands in further implementation of ESD. Our National ESD program DuurzaamDoor 2013-2016 is in full operation now.

It addresses partly the issues concerning 'formal education' by the support for Teachers-networks in Primary, secondary education and Teacher Training (Netwerken Duurzame Pabo en Sustainable chain Gang) and also in investing in TVET (by the network DuurzaamMBO). Each network has its own specific conference, website and expert meetings for teachers. Esp. in TVET much attention is paid on the new 'qualification structure', containing now about 160 out of 600 'profession descriptions' that refers to ESD-competences.

The ICT-based platform Groen Gelinkt serves as connector between NGO's, ESD- organisations, businesses and schools, now presenting the projects and activities of over 600 organisations in an over 3000 descriptions. The platform is visited by educators over 10.000 times a month.

For Higher education the Universities and Technical Academics work together with the 200 most innovative and sustainable business in the Netherlands under the umbrella of a joint venture: Het Groene Brein (Green Brains), also supported by student organisation MORGEN, that annually makes a ranking of ESD related progress in Higher education under the benchmark 'SustainaBUL'.

Although the formal education is interesting, most of the attention of the National ESD program is paid to 'social learning', in which the formula is: coalition, co-creation and co-financing.

Coalitions in which a multi-stakeholder process (NGO, Business, Schools, Government, Academia, Citizen Cooperation) can take place on SD-themes as biodiversity, water, energy or food, but mostly addressing broader issues as Climate Change, Sustainable Production and Consumption, Corporate Sustainable Responsibility or more integral development in regions. This 'transition' approach is also connected with the change in 'governance' in the Netherlands, in which more and more 'bottom up' transitions take place, putting governments and other formal institutions in different role's.

So the ESD program becomes more and more a 'change agent' in it selves, giving input for the search for more sustainable life styles and a possible new circular economy. Together with the Benelux partners Belgium and Luxembourg a series over collective conferences addresses this longing for transition and new economic models, and esp. the role that education can play in this process of long term changes. On 18-20 November a concluding conference will be held in Luxembourg.

In the Netherlands is the intention to look for a follow up of the national ESD program for the years 2017-2020, to be decided next year.